

Serving the Sunday Assembly as a Communion Minister

Introduction

The Communion minister carries out one of the most sacred and holy tasks for those gathered—serving as a representative both of the Gospel and the assembly. The Communion minister’s challenge is to allow individuals to be engaged in both a communal and personal reception of this Sacrament.

Preparing to be a Communion Minister on Sunday

1. Read through the information below and contact Pastor Jason with any questions.
2. Memorize the following words: “The blood of Christ, shed for you.”

As a Communion Minister on Sunday

1. When the first notes of the Lamb of God begin, after the invitation to Communion, come forward to the chancel with deliberate and unhurried movements.
2. If you’d like to use a small glass instead of the common cup when you receive Communion, please take one from the tray as you come forward.
3. When you get to the lower step, pause and reverence (bow) toward the chancel.
4. Walk up the steps to the chancel and stand next to the assisting minister to receive Communion from the presiding minister.
5. After all the leaders have communed, the assisting minister will hand you the common cup of wine and a purificator (small napkin). It’s often most helpful to hold the common cup with the stem in one hand and support it from the bottom with the other.
6. Communion is served starting from the organ side and ending on the baptismal font side of the congregation. First the presiding minister gives the bread or a blessing to each person. Next, the assisting minister fills each small cup using the pouring chalice. Finally, the Communion minister serves those who wish to drink from the common cup.
7. If an individual does not have a small cup in their hand and is not standing with arms crossed over the chest (indicating a preference not to take Communion), offer the common cup of wine.
8. Stand directly in front of the individual, look into their eyes and smile while saying, “The blood of Christ, shed for you.” Then hand the person the cup to drink. (If you’re holding it from the stem, it should be easy for the person to take it with two hands.)
9. Receive the chalice back from the individual. Use the purificator to wipe **both** the inner and outer lip of the chalice. Then, **turn the chalice a quarter turn** before offering to the next person.
10. Those serving Communion continue from the organ side to the font side and circle back until all are served.
11. As you pass by the lower table/altar, check to see if you need more wine. If so, stop at the table and place your chalice on the table. Take the flagon (pitcher) of wine and pull back the top. Place your thumb on the top to hold it open, and then pour the wine with the purificator in your other hand and held under the lip to dab up the wine. This helps keep the altar linens clean.
12. If you use the remaining wine in the flagon, check with the assisting minister to see if you both think more wine will be needed. If so, one of you should exit through the small door near the organ and refill the flagon with the jug of wine on the table in the church office. Bring the flagon back to the presiding minister to be blessed.

13. If you spill or drop the wine while serving, it's okay. Remain calm and begin to clean it up with your purificator. The presiding minister will also come to assist, if needed.
14. When all are served at the chancel step, the presiding minister may ask you to help serve those with limited mobility in the pews.
15. After all have been served, place the purificator and chalice on the lower table.
16. Step down on the floor and pause to reverence the chancel as you return to your seat.

A Word of Thanks

Thank you for helping to lead our liturgy at WPLC. Liturgy literally means “the work of the people” or alternatively “the work for the people.” As we gather in worship, we work together to reflect on and experience God’s presence in the world, and we also know that it is God’s work in which we participate. Yet our worship is not the end of it—we go out into the world to engage in a holy liturgy each week as we work, learn, grow, rest, and dwell with others and our God. Thank you for serving and helping us participate in God’s holy liturgy!